

PITY THE NATION  
*(After Khalil Gibran)*

Pity the nation whose people are sheep  
And whose shepherds mislead them  
Pity the nation whose leaders are liars  
Whose sages are silenced  
And whose bigots rule the airwaves  
Pity the nation that raises not its voice  
Except to praise conquerers  
And acclaim the bully as hero  
And aims to rule the world  
By force and by torture  
Pity the nation that knows  
No other language but its own  
And no other culture but its own  
Pity the nation whose breath is money  
And sleeps the sleep of the too well fed  
Pity the nation oh pity the people  
who allow their rights to erode  
and their freedoms to be washed away  
*My country, tears of thee*  
*Sweet land of liberty!*

—Lawrence Ferlinghetti